(c) There are 20476 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in Madhya Pradesh, out of which 3903 are in urban areas. All FPSs in Madhya Pradesh are run by cooperatives and Panchayats.

In Chhattisgarh there are 10242 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) run by Gram Panchayats, Primary Agricultural and other Co-operative Societies, Self Help Groups of Women, etc.

No FPS in Madhya Pradesh or Chhattisgarh is being run by Private persons.

Import of wheat

1998. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first tender to import wheat from foreign countries was invited in June/July, 2006 and if so, the details of rates quoted by each party;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government scrapped the said tender and if so, what were the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same companies were given order at Rs. 16 per kilogram for 7.9 lakh tonnes of imported red wheat in August, 2007 and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir in view of (a) & (b) above.

Target to procure foodgrain

1999. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated target to procure foodgrain for the Central pool in the ongoing paddy season;

(b) the steps taken by Government to meet the target; and

(c) how much paddy Government has procured, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by Government agencies is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, based on estimates given by St. ; Food Secretaries, the procurement of rice in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 v. estimated at 276 lakh tonnes.

(b) The steps taken by Government to maximize procurement are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) The actual procurement of rice by Government agencies for the Central Pool in KMS 2007-08 is 93.45 lakh tonnes as on 3.12.07.

Statement

Steps taken by the government to maximize procurement of rice in KMS 2007-08

(i) The MSP for rice was fixed at Rs. 646 and Rs. 675 per quintal for Common and Grade 'A' variety respectively for KMS 2007-08, an increase of Rs. 65 per quintal, in order to encourage farmers to grow more rice.

(ii) The Commission to Societies and Self-Help Groups undertaking procurement of paddy on behalf of the FCI/State Agencies, etc. has been allowed at a maximum of 1.5% of MSP.

(iii) The Government has announced a bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal over and above the MSP of Rs. 645 per quintal for 'Common' and Rs. 675 per quintal for Grade 'A' variety of paddy respectively.

(iv) In paddy, the percentage of damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevil led grains has been increased from 3% to 4%.

(v) Export of non-basmati rice-below Minimum Export Price of $425 per MT has been banned.

(vi) A notification titled "Rice (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 on 27.11.2007. The order provides that any Company or Firm or individual which purchases paddy (in terms of rice) or rice beyond 10,000 tonnes during Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08 (October-September) shall furnish a return to the Secretary, Department of Food of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased. If the overall purchase of rice in the country exceeds 25,000 tonnes (in terms of rice), a return in prescribed format is to be filed with the Department of Food & Public Distribution of Central Government. The concerned State Government with which returns are filed will submit a consolidated monthly report to Central Government.

Production of sugar related products by sugar mills

†2000. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that besides sugar, other related products are also produced in the sugar mills of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such products;

(c) whether Government has arrested the cost and quantity of such products being produced with sugar in the sugar mills to make proper assessment of the financial position of the sugar mills; and

(d) if so, the estimated quantity of sugar and other related products and the cost thereof with one tonne of sugarcane having produced with 10 per cent recovery?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.